



Q at The Empress

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VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

The coastal city of tea and gardens trades old-fashioned ambience for a fashionable flair.

Why Now: Long recognized for its charm and beauty, graceful Victoria is in the midst of a renaissance. A recent influx of techpreneurs and creative millennials has reinvigorated the seaside dowager's garden-party image. Today, visitors and locals alike flock to swank cocktail lounges, stylish shops and hip eateries.

Where to Go: Inner Harbour's grand dame—the Fairmont Empress hotel—put the final touches on a glittering \$60 million refresh last year. Inside, vibrant pop-art portraits of the city's namesake queen preside over the sumptuous Q Bar. Don't miss the Q 1908 cocktail, a royal purple concoction made with Empress 1908 color-changing gin.

In Victoria, breakfast is an art form. Line up early at The Jam Cafe for pulled-pork pancakes or one of seven different kinds of eggs benedict. Fully fueled, wander the warren of streets around Lower Johnson Street and Chinatown. Midcentury-modern furniture, housewares and home décor abound at Trig Vintage, while old

gambling dens house funky shops on tiny Fan Tan Alley. Nearby, Madrona Gallery features the works of established and emerging Canadian artists. Pay homage to Victoria's favorite tradition—teatime—at Abkhazi Garden, a verdant refuge on the edge of Oak Bay Village. Or skip straight to drinks at Little Jumbo Restaurant & Bar with the Gin and Tea, which features two blends of local Silk Road teas. Tuck into dinner at the just-launched The Courtney Room, where chef Sam Harris gives local ingredients a French twist. — **GINA DECAPRIO VERCESI**

HIT THE TOWN

📍 **Nourish Kitchen & Cafe**

Holistic nutrition goes gourmet at this cozy spot.

📍 **Anián**

Retail space selling upscale recycled woolsens and natural fiber outdoor wear.

📍 **The Pedaler**

Bike rentals and guided tours offer a peek into Victoria's coastal splendor.



SUMMER FUN

AMLOID AQUA CREATURES SWIM MASK

Bring out your child's inner sea creature—and create some pooltime fun—with these adjustable swim masks. Animal options include an electric green crocodile and a pink or blue shark. Available at Walmart stores; \$9.97



CGEAR SAND-FREE BACKPACK

Tired of bringing the beach home with you? Stuff flip-flops, towels, toys and more into this mesh backpack and watch the sand and dirt filter out. Its specially designed bottom also helps prevent debris from getting in. \$29.99



SWIG STEMLESS FLUTE

Keep broken glass off your pool party guest list with these colorful stainless steel champagne flutes. Drinks stay chilled for up to six hours, and the glasses come with a push-seal lid to prevent bubbly from going overboard. \$19.95



Goat caddies at Silvies Valley Ranch.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Portland cult bakery **Voodoo Doughnut** has landed at Universal CityWalk in Orlando, complete with over-the-top flavors, fun shapes and funky art • Starting July 10, goat caddies will be available on McVeigh's Gauntlet, a hilly 7-hole golf course at Oregon's **Silvies Valley Ranch** resort • Chef David Nayfeld has a hit on his hands with San Francisco's recently opened Italian spot **Che Fico**, which has celebs such as Anderson Cooper Instagramming their pizzas and pastas • A former Ottoman-era jail overlooking the Mediterranean Sea has taken a luxe turn to become the five-star **Setai Tel Aviv** in Jaffa • Near-pristine skies beckon at the new playground for stargazers, **John Glenn Astronomy Park** in Ohio's Hocking Hills State Park.